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## Hansen Urges House Probe of Iran Crisis

A stinging secret report to the House Intelligence Committee raises serious questions about President Carter's role in the Iranian hostage situation and suggests that only prompt and thorough congressional hearings can fix responsibility for the crisis and secure the hostages' release.

Among the most serious charges in the explosive report are these:

- President Carter provoked the seizure of our embassy in Tehran by letting the exiled shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi into the United States, despite clear and repeated warnings that such action could lead to the taking of American hostages.
- The banking community, particularly David Rockefeller of Chase Manhattan, played a key role in getting the shah admitted. The report suggests that Chase Manhattan deliberately set up the confrontation so that it could keep the Iranian government from withdrawing billions in oil revenue from its account at the bank.
- Former secretary of state William Rogers may have violated federal conflict-of-interest laws by going to work for the shah's Pahlavi Foundation shortly after leaving the government.
- Negligence by the Carter administration allowed many highly sensitive U.S. documents to fall into the hands of the Iranians—and the Soviet Union—when the embassy was overrun.
- The hostages could have been released on at least four separate occasions "with no compromise of the U.S. position."

• Congress has shirked its duty by failing to hold hearings on the Iranian mess.

The detailed report was prepared by Rep. George Hansen, the maverick Idaho Republican who tried to resolve the hostage crisis by negotiating personally with the captors in Tehran. Though Hansen's flamboyant attempt at one-man diplomacy was derided by the administration and his colleagues in Congress, he and a staff of three investigators have documented their allegations in detail.

In his report, sent to Rep. Edward Boland (D-Mass.), chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Hansen chides the congressional leadership for its failure to look into the Iranian situation, when an investigation might free the hostages.

"Congress did not hesitate long to open inquiries into 'Watergate' and 'Koreagate,'" he reminded Boland. "Our government did not wait until the end of World War II to find who slept at the switch on Pearl Harbor

"I can personally attest to you with witnesses that such hearings could have brought the hostages home in November and may well be the key again . . . Why should we sidestep the truth until the hostages are out when the truth can get them out?"

Hansen has compiled "massive information that cries out for responsible investigation," he wrote. Many of his allegations have already been verified by my associates Gary Cohn and Joe Spear. Many, in fact, were first repor-

ted in this column.

Chronicling the president's decision to admit the deposed shah for medical treatment last October, Hansen's report cites secret State Department cables that warn of retaliation against the U.S. Embassy if the shah were admitted. An eyes-only document dated three months before the embassy takeover states explicitly: "The danger of hostages being taken in Iran will persist . . . We should make no move toward admitting the shah until we have obtained and tested a new and substantially more effective guard force at the embassy."

Hansen suggests, from evidence of other documents, that admission of the shah was not the result of a medical emergency, as the administration claimed, but was probably long and carefully planned.

In discussing the pressure from Chase Manhattan and the Rockefellers' henchman, Henry Kissinger, the report notes that under the shah, Iran's oil revenues were deposited with Chase Manhattan to the tune of \$20 billion a year. But the revolutionary Iranian government began to withdraw its funds—a potentially serious "run" on the bank.

While Hansen stops short of accusing Chase Manhattan of engineering the hostage situation, he does point out that Carter's response—freezing Iranian assets in U.S. banks—prevented further withdrawals from the Rockefeller bank and ultimately allowed Chase Manhattan to seize the Iranian funds.